GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3266
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2015
Objectives of Anganwadi Centres
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has achieved the objectives of Angnawadi centres to provide education, nutritional food and home like shelter to poor children of villages in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) has given any advice to the Government in this regards; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b):The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was launched in 1975 with the objectives (i) to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group of 0-6 years; (ii) to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; (iii) to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout; (iv) to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and (v) to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

In order to achieve the ICDS objectives, a package of six essential services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition (SNP); (ii) Immunization; (iii) Health check-up; (iv) Referral services; (v) Pre-school non-formal education; and (vi) Nutrition & health education are provided to the targeted beneficiaries i.e. all children below 6 years, Pregnant and Lactating Mothers. Three of the six services namely, Immunisation, Health Check-up and Referral Services are delivered through Public Health Infrastructure under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

In order to universalise ICDS Scheme, Government has sanctioned 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres to the States/UTs of which 13.47 lakh Anganwdi Centres have become operational as on 30.09.2015. As on 30.09.2015, there are 823.66 lakh children and 191.78 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers receiving supplementary nutrition at Anganwadi Centres. Similarly, 358.79 lakh children (3-6 years) attended AWCs for Pre-school non-formal education. The State wise details on number of sanctioned and operational ICDS projects and Anganwadi Centres, and beneficiaries of Supplementary Nutrition Programme & Pre-School Education are given at Annex-I.

(c) to (d): The United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) is providing only technical support to this Ministry. However, a Rapid Survey on Children (RSOC) was commissioned across 29 States during 2013-14 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development through UNICEF India. The key objectives of the survey was to assess the situation of children and women in the country with special emphasis on access and utilization of services under ICDS and to provide baseline data for the Restructured ICDS Scheme. As per the findings of the survey, proportion of moderately underweight children below five years is 29.4% (NFHS-III: 42.5%) and severely underweight is 9.5% (NFHS-III: 15.8%).

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